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URBAN
DISTRICT



COUNCIL
OF

GAINSBOROUGH

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

with that of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



FOR THE YEAR 1955

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GAINSBOROUGH



1955

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor C. W. Wilson, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor J. C. Fitchett,

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor A. Theaker.

Councillor H. Asquith.

Councillor G. R. Baines.

Councillor R. Foxall.

Councillor R. Harrop.

Councillor A. Newman.

Councillor Miss D. Oaks.

Councillor Mrs. E. M. Price.

Councillor C. Roberts.

Councillor G. Woolnough.

Councillor C. W. Wilson, J.P.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL:

Eric R. Morgan, Esq.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GAINSBOROUGH

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D., M.B., Ch.B. (Edin. Univ.), D.P.H. (Edin. and Glasgow).

Senior Public Health Inspector:

JOHN CARTER, A.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
2. Royal Society of Health. Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
3. Royal Society of Health. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
4. Royal Society of Health. Certificate as Smoke Inspector.
5. Institution of Public Health Engineers. Associate Membership Examination.
6. Liverpool University School of Hygiene. Certificate in Sanitary Science.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

JAMES KIRK, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

(Resigned: 15th April, 1955).

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
 2. Royal Society of Health. Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
-

General Assistant:

A. E. NICHOLSON.

Clerk:

D. COOK.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1955

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GAINSBOROUGH.**

Public Health Department,
12, Lord Street,
Gainsborough.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1955 regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the District, which has been prepared in accordance with Statutory requirements.

Although there is a fall in the Birth Rate compared with last year, the figure (16.4) is better than that for England and Wales (15), and the Infant Mortality Rate (18.25) shows a great reduction on that of last year. It is pleasing to note that this figure is smaller than the lowest ever recorded figure for England and Wales (24.9). The Death Rate (12.37) is slightly higher than the National average (11.7). Deaths from Cancer show a slight increase as also do those due to heart and circulatory conditions, but most of these were at advanced ages.

For the tenth year in succession I am pleased to report that no cases of Diphtheria occurred. The higher incidence of infectious disease is mainly attributable to outbreaks of Measles in the first quarter of the year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the loyal co-operation rendered to me by Mr. Carter and his staff and also to the Members of the Council for their helpful consideration in health matters.

Yours obediently,

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Urban District.....	2,406 acres
Estimated Population	17,380
Number of inhabited houses end 1955.....	5,518
Rateable Value	£104,235
Sum represented by 1d. Rate.....	£408/8/3

The chief industries of the area are Engineering, Timber, Malting and Milling.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate
Live Births	274	131	143	16.40
Legitimate	254	121	133	
Illegitimate	20	10	10	
Still Births	12	7	5	
Legitimate	8	5	3	
Illegitimate	4	2	2	

Deaths. 1955. All causes.

Total	Male	Female	Death Rate
247	131	116	12.37

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES Nil

DEATHS FROM OTHER MATERNAL CAUSES 1

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births 18.25

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	4	1	5
Cancer, all causes	23	21	44
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	15	20	35
Coronary disease, angina.....	22	10	32
Hypertension with heart disease.....	4	3	7
Other heart disease	20	24	44
Other circulatory diseases.....	4	1	5
Influenza	2	—	2
Pneumonia.....	5	3	8
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Other respiratory diseases	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	3	1	4
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoæ	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Congenital malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	16	26
Accidents other than Motor vehicle..	6	3	9
Suicide.....	2	2	4
	131	116	247

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

Births	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate
1955	274	131	143	16.40
1954	297	148	149	17.72
1953	253	123	130	14.52
1952	263	142	121	16.9
1951	260	134	126	16.7
1950	283	159	124	15.8
1949	269	129	140	15.1

Deaths	Total	Male	Female	Death Rate
1955	247	131	116	12.37
1954	223	105	118	11.14
1953	221	116	105	12.69
1952	272	148	124	12.3
1951	263	136	127	14.8
1950	229	120	109	12.2
1949	240	131	109	13.5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	1	4	5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	—	3	3

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

1955.....	18.25
1954.....	43.76
1953.....	39.53
1952.....	38.0
1951.....	30.7
1950.....	17.6

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

	* Birth Rate	* Death Rate	‡ Infant Mortality
England and Wales ..	15.0	11.7	24.9
160 Great Towns	14.9	11.6	25.1
160 Smaller Towns	14.9	11.6	25.2
London	15.1	11.5	23.2
Gainsborough	16.4	12.37	18.25

* Rates per 1,000 home population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

County Medical Officer of Health: Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E.

Health Information. Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the M.O.H., 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough.

Many various facilities are available under the following headings:—

Maternity Service.

Child Care.

Home Nursing.

Health Visitors.

Home Helps.

Sick Room Requisites, Appliances and other Equipment.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Mental Health.

Ambulance Service.

Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics.

The County Council's clinics function at Gainsborough as follows:—

(a) At Spital Terrace Clinic

School Clinic	Tuesdays 2-0 p.m.
Infant Welfare Centre ...	Thursdays 2-0 p.m.
Toddlers Clinic	2nd Thursday and 4th Monday in each month 10-0 a.m.
Infant Welfare & Ante-Natal Clinic	2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesday in each month at 10-0 a.m.
Vaccination and Immunisation	By appointment.
Sunlight Clinic	Mondays and Thursdays 10-0 a.m.
Domestic Help Service ...	Organiser attends Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-0 p.m.

(b) At Woods Terrace Clinic.

Infant Welfare Centre ...	Mondays 2-0 p.m.
Toddlers Clinic	2nd Monday and 3rd Thurs- day 10 a.m.
Immunisation	1st Tuesday in each month.

In addition to the above, appointments are also made at the John Coupland or other Hospital for school and pre-school children requiring Ophthalmic or Ear, Nose and Throat consultant services.

B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

General Medical Care.

The Family Doctor.

Special Maternity Services apart from the Local Health Authority Service (General Practitioner Obstetrician).

Medicines, Drugs and Appliances.

Dentistry.

Supplementary Eye Service.

C. SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Hospital and Specialist Services. All forms of treatment in general or special hospitals are available, both in-patient and out-patient treatment. This includes sanatorium treatment, maternity care, care of mental health and surgical operations. Consultants and specialists are available as far as resources permit.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

The usual services were satisfactorily carried out. Routine analyses of samples of the water supply were made at weekly intervals. Results and remarks thereon appear in the Sanitary Inspector's section of this report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Total of New Houses erected during the year	....	....	....	62
(1) By the Local Authority	....	....	....	26
(2) By other Local Authorities	....	....	....	0
(3) By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	36
1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year—				
(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	....	85
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	....	....	....	243
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	....	....	....	0
(b) No. of inspections made for that purpose	....	....	....	0
(3) No. of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	....	....	....	0
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....	534

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 71

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) by owners —
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners —
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 32
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) by owners 12
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners —
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 —
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :.... —
- (e) Proceedings under Sections 25 & 26 —

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.... 2
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 3
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 16
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 9
- (d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved —

5. Housing Act, 1949.

- (a) No. of applications for grants received 44
- (b) No. of grants made 14
- (c) No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority —

6. Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

No. of site licences	—	No. of individual licences	2
No. of inspections during the year—Sites.....	—	No. of contraventions remedied	—
—Dwellings	2		

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year. The growing interest in food hygiene and the dangers attendant upon careless handling which have been emphasised both in the press and by the frequent visits of your Inspectors to food premises are already showing results, but greater advances are expected next year when the new Food Hygiene Regulations come into force.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1955, there were 353 notifications of infectious diseases, 88% of which were measles. Details of these are in subsequent tables.

ANTI-DIPHTHERIC IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Particulars of diphtheria immunisations, whooping cough immunisations, combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisations, vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out in the Gainsborough Urban District during 1955.

	Under five years of age at date of immunisation.	Between five and fourteen years of age at date of immunisation.	Boosting Doses.
Diphtheria Immunisations	35	35	251

	Under One.	One.	Two.	Three.	Four.	Total.
Whooping Cough Immunisations (under five years)	1	3	1	1	—	6

	Under One.	One.	Two.	Three.	Four.	Total.
Combined Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisations (under five years)	128	75	10	8	14	235

	Under one.	1—4.	5—14.	15 or over.	Total
Vaccinations	74	17	32	20	143
Re-vaccinations	—	4	4	22	30

TABLE I.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.
Measles	309
Scarlet Fever	4
Pneumonia	17
Whooping Cough	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Poliomyelitis	4*
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	16
Total	353

* One case not confirmed.

TABLE II.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

Disease	North	Market	Central	South
Measles	99	77	63	70
Scarlet Fever	1	2	1	—
Pneumonia	3	6	5	3
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—
Peurperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	1*	2	1	—

* Diagnosis not confirmed.

TABLE III.

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Ages	Scarlet		Whooping		Puerperal	
	Measles	Fever	Pneumonia	Cough	Pyrexia	Poliomyelitis
0—1	18	—	—	—	—	1
1—2	47	—	—	—	—	—
2—3	35	1	2	1	—	1
3—4	38	—	—	—	—	—
4—5	49	—	1	—	—	—
5—10	118	2	7	—	—	—
10—15	2	—	—	—	—	1*
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—35	2	1	1	—	1	1
35 Up.	—	—	6	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	309	4	17	1	2	4

* Diagnosis NOT confirmed.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles	160	107	31	6	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	309
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Pneumonia	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	—	2	—	1	3	17
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3*	1	—	—	4
Tuberculosis													
(Respiratory) ...	4	1	—	2	1	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	16
Totals	166	109	32	12	4	10	2	1	6	5	1	5	353

* One case NOT confirmed.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Year	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Totals
1955	5	0	5
1954	2	0	2
1953	2	0	2
1952	6	2	8
1951	7	1	8
1950	1	0	1
1949	10	1	11

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Special treatment clinics are held at the John Coupiand Hospital every Friday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. or, alternatively appointments can be made privately.

The trend of the enthetic diseases is noticably low. The awareness of the public generally has now reached the stage where they do not conceal their infection so much as in former years, and thus treatment is given earlier. Modern antibiotics are so powerful that patients are quickly rendered non-infectious and this effect on the spread of the diseases is most marked.

Twelve male and five female cases were seen. One syphilis, two gonorrhoea and fourteen non-specific conditions.

CANCER.

Although there has been a slight increase in the total number of deaths due to Cancer, it is encouraging to note that a very marked decrease has occurred in deaths from Cancer of the lung and bronchus.

The total number of deaths from Cancer was	44
Males	23
Females	21

The sites of the disease are as follows:—

Stomach	8
Lung and bronchus	3
Breast	7
Uterus	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25

The total number of Cancer deaths in recent years is given below:

Year	Deaths
1955	44
1954	40
1953	29
1952	45
1951	43
1950	28
1949	31

GERIATRICS.

The study of the increasing longevity of the population has become an important concern regarding the medical and socio-economic problems of the Public Health Service.

Old people require provision of hearing aids and spectacles if required, as well as treatment for foot disabilities. In the latter case, chiropodists' services are available in this district by arrangement through the Old People's Welfare Committee of which your Medical Officer is a member.

Much other good work is done by other voluntary workers such as the Women's Voluntary Services Club, the Red Cross and the Co-operative Society's Clubs for old people as well as the Marshall's Works Veterans' Club.

All these are available for those who are able to attend.

Home visits are made by volunteers where necessary and the provision of "Home Help" service is also arranged and available through the Lindsey County Council.

During 1955, no action had to be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act of 1948.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Medical Officer is also School Medical Inspector and Assistant County Medical Officer. All schools in the district were inspected during the year. The state of health, general nutrition and cleanliness of the children was again of an extremely high standard and showed a vast improvement on the conditions prevailing in the old days.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Carried out in the Gainsborough Urban District during 1955.

DEFECT	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring observation
Skin	10	9	—	—
Eyes				
(a) Vision	66	57	5	—
(b) Squint	6	21	—	2
(c) Other	2	—	2	—
Ears				
(a) Hearing	4	11	1	1
(b) Otitis Media	1	6	—	—
(c) Other	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat	21	106	—	—
Speech	—	9	—	—
Lymphatic Glands	2	2	—	—
Heart	—	1	—	—
Lungs	9	22	—	1
Developmental				
(a) Hernia	—	1	—	—
(b) Other.....	—	1	—	—
Orthopaedic				
(a) Posture	1	4	—	—
(b) Feet	5	6	—	—
(c) Other	—	10	1	1
Nervous System				
(a) Epilepsy	1	—	—	—
(b) Other.....	—	1	—	—
Psychological				
(a) Development	4	8	—	3
(b) Stability	—	6	—	—
Other	1	8	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS—GAINSBOROUGH CHEST CLINIC.

Attendances at the Chest Clinic for the last four years, together with new cases:

	1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.
Attendances	1551	1459	1281	1264
New Cases	194	232	296	273

During the year under review, the Chest Clinic held at the John Coupland Hospital continued on the same lines as in the previous year.

There was a decrease in the number of new cases attending the Clinic, but there was a slight increase in the number found to have active Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

I am indebted to Dr. H. G. H. Butcher, Consulting Chest Physician for the above information.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES.

Number of children examined during the year for fitness for employment	20
Number of certificates granted	20
Number of certificates refused	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY—ENGLAND & WALES.

Total number of deaths:—

Year.	Number.
1945	31,959
1946	33,541
1947	36,849

Since 1947 there has been a substantial decrease each year, bringing the total figure for 1955 down to 16,613.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES—ENGLAND & WALES.

(Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births).

Year.	Rate.
1946	42.9
1947	41.4
1948	33.9
1949	32.4
1950	29.6
1951	29.7
1952	27.6
1953	26.8
1954	25.5
1955	24.9

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GAINSBOROUGH.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my ninth Annual Report on the work of the public health inspectorate during the year.

Due to the resignation of the Additional Public Health Inspector during April and our inability to fill the vacancy, little more than the day to day routine of the Department could be attempted. With a view to alleviating the burden of this extra work, Improvement Grant proposals were transferred to the Surveyor's Department. Reciprocal arrangements for meat inspection during holiday periods were agreed to with the Gainsborough Rural District Council in view of the long hours of overtime which had to be worked. In addition, the clerk was appointed to act as general assistant and a new clerk engaged to enable the Council to resume the exercise of their powers in relation to slum clearance. Despite these setbacks, a considerable amount of progress was achieved as is indicated under the various headings in the pages which follow.

Legislative changes affecting the work of the Department were as follows:—

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

This Act which came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, repealed and consolidated the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1954, Sections of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, and the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

These Regulations replace Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, now repealed, and lay down requirements for the cleanliness of food premises, the provision of washing facilities, the temperature at which certain foods are to be kept and the hygienic handling of food. The Regulations, with certain exceptions, came into force on January 1st, 1956, and the remainder became operative on July 1st, 1956.

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

These Regulations, which came into force on the 5th July require the use of an approved casting pen when slaughtering adult cattle by the Jewish or Mohammedan method.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

The number of factories on the register, including 11 bake-houses is 89. During the year, 102 visits were paid to these premises, which resulted in 16 offences against the Act being remedied. This work has been facilitated by the ready co-operation which has been extended at all times by Her Majesty's Inspector for the District.

The list of Outworkers required to be kept under Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, contains the names of 16 persons resident in the area.

The following table in the form required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, gives a summary of the work undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors.

PART I OF THE ACT.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authori- ties	6	11	2	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	82	87	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority exclud- ing outworkers ...	1	4	—	—
Totals	89	102	5	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in Which Defects Were Found.				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. .	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	1	2	—	1	—
Totals	15	16	Nil	1	Nil

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year two complaints of the emission of black smoke and gritty particles were dealt with. Several observations were made of industrial chimneys and it is disturbing to record the extent to which the atmosphere of the town is being polluted.

When it is realised that the death rate in our larger boroughs due to pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases is nearly fifty times that in Denmark and twenty times that in Norway and Sweden, the seriousness of the problem becomes apparent. The Registrar General in 1938 stated that smoke from factories and houses, by reducing the effective sunlight, was one of the four factors responsible for the higher urban death rates. When the Clean Air Bill becomes law it is hoped that more rapid progress will be made in the future than has hitherto been accomplished.

FOOD.

There are 203 food premises in the area comprising the following types of business:—

Grocers	68	Greengrocers ...	20	Mixed Grocery .	11
Butchers	35	Fried Fish	18	Bakers	11
Confectioners ...	26	Wet Fish	5	Cafes	9

The following premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Preserved Food	17	Storage of Ice Cream	51
Ice Cream Manufacturing		3	

72 visits of inspection were made to the 17 registered food premises during the year.

All purveyors of ice cream were visited to secure compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1952.

Seven samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the Methylene Blue test and all were classified Grade I.

No further educational activities were embarked upon neither was any clean food guild established.

All condemned food is disposed of by burial in the Council's controlled tip.

Routine food inspection was carried out and it was not found necessary to make special examinations of bulk consignments.

I am indebted to Mr. G. Collinson, D.P.A., County Health Inspector, for supplying the following details of samples taken within the Council's area by the Lindsey County Council as Food and Drugs Authority under the Act.

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Article Sampled.	No. of Samples taken.
Milk	8
Cream	1
Condensed Milk	2
Ice Cream	2
Margarine	2
Lard	2
Suet	1
Sausages and Sausage Meat	4
Potted Meat	2
Meat Paste and Spreads	2
Meat Pie (all descriptions)	2
Other Meat Products	3
Fish Cakes	1
Tinned Fish and other Fish Products (except paste) ...	1
Other canned vegetables	1
Sauces (all types)	3
Seasoning (all types)	1
Soups (Tinned and Powder)	1
Preserves (Jam and Marmalade)	2
Vinegar	1
Stout and Ale	1
Soft Drinks	3
Sugar Confectionery (Sweets)	3
Flour	2
Miscellaneous Foods	8
Drugs	14
Total	73

All the above were satisfactory, with the exception of two samples of pork sausage with meat deficiencies of 16.5% and 4% respectively.

Legal proceedings were instituted and a penalty imposed in the first case, whilst a warning was issued in the latter. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1955.

304 Tins of Fruit.
298 Tins of Tomatoes.
97 Tins of Milk.
101 Tins of Meat.
80 Tins of Fish.
31 Tins of Beans.
60 Tins of Peas.
14 Tins of Vegetables.
83 Tins of Soup.
11 Tins of Cream.
13 Tins of Beverages.
19 Jars of Pickles.
24 Jars of Preserves.
13 Jars of Chicken.
3 Jars of Sandwich Spread.
1 Jar of Pate de Fois Gras.
2 Tins of Ravioli.
3 Tins of Spaghetti.
1 Tin of Coffee.
1 Tin of Peanuts.
53 Packets of Cereals.
156 Packets of Cake Mix.
254 Packets of Cheese Spread.
18 Meat Pies.
100 Marshmallows.
56 Cakes.
6 Jellies.
1½ lbs. of Lemonade Crystals.
2¾ lbs. of Biscuits.
3 lbs. of Dried Fruit.
400 lbs. of Apples.
48 lbs. of Flour.
7½ lbs. of Bath Chaps.
18½ lbs. of Cooked Ox-tongue.
6 lbs. of Pressed Veal.
23 lbs. of Liver.
75 lbs. of Sausages.
47 lbs. of Bacon.
451½ lbs. of Corned Beef.
4022¾ lbs. of Cooked Ham.
167½ lbs. of Cheese.
4¼ lbs. of Butter.
43 lbs. of Fish.
56 lbs. of Boiled Crab.
47 Jars of Fish Paste.
30 Fish Cakes.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

112 visits were paid during the year to ensure compliance with the provisions of the above Act in relation to the health and comfort of shop workers. 3 contraventions were found and remedied without recourse to formal action.

MILK and DAIRIES.

There are seven distributors of milk on the register and twenty-eight shops are licensed by the Council for the sale of Sterilised Milk.

Four dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. The following Dealers licences were issued during the year:—

Sterilised	29	Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised	3		

During the year, 8 reports in respect of Pasteurised Milk and 8 reports in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk were received from the County Health Inspector. With the exception of one Pasteurised Milk, all were reported upon as satisfactory.

Until the Ministry prescribes areas in which only Designated Milks may be sold under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, dealers may sell raw milk or any of the designated milks.

The designations now in force are:—

TUBERCULIN TESTED PASTEURISED STERILISED.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are responsible for the control of milk production and the supervision of milk pasteurising plants is exercised by the Lindsey County Council.

The Council remains responsible for the issue of Dealers' and Supplementary licences and the conditions under which milk is retailed to the public, including the registration of dairy premises and distributors.

Meat, Foods and Slaughterhouse Inspections

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.....	820	130	2	2113	3892
Number inspected	820	130	2	2113	3892
<i>All disease except Tuberculosis.</i> Whole Carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	181	26	—	8	181
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.07	20	—	0.37	4.78
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i> Whole Carcasses con- demned	1	3	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	67	25	—	—	187
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.3	21.5	—	—	4.83
<i>Cysticercosis.</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

No horse slaughtering for human consumption is carried on within the District.

No veterinary ante-mortem inspection of animals is undertaken.

No action was necessary in regard to meat offered for sale by retail.

MEAT CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR:

The following carcasses and offals were condemned as unfit for human consumption at the Two Licensed Slaughterhouses within the district:—

4	Beast carcasses and all offals	Generalised Tuberculosis
3	Forequarters of beef	Tuberculosis
157 lbs.	of beef	Bone taint
1	hind shin	Tuberculosis
40 lbs.	fat	Fat Necrosis
1	Beast head and tongue	Abscesses
13	Beast heads and tongues	Actinomycosis
1	Beast head and tongue	Cysticercus Bovis
40	Beast heads and tongues	Tuberculosis
1	Set of beast lungs	Actinomycosis
1	Set of beast lungs	Abscesses
2	Sets of beast lungs	Pleurisy
7	Sets of beast lungs	Pneumonia
1	Set of beast lungs	Pulmonary Distoma
47	Sets of beast lungs	Tuberculosis
1	Beast heart	Pericarditis
11	Beast hearts	Tuberculosis
18	Beast livers	Abscesses
12	Beast livers	Cirrhosis
19	Beast livers	Distomatosis
1	Beast liver	Telangiectasis
12	Beast livers	Tuberculosis
17	Part beast livers	Abscesses
41	Part beast livers	Cirrhosis
1	Part beast liver	Peritonitis
62	Part beast livers	Distomatosis
1	Beast kidney	Abscesses
1	Beast kidney	Tuberculosis
4	Beast stomachs	Abscesses
1	Beast stomach	Peritonitis
2	Beast stomachs	Tuberculosis
4	Sets of beast intestines	Abscesses
7	Sets of beast intestines	Enteritis
5	Sets of beast intestines	Johne's Disease
17	Sets of beast intestines	Tuberculosis
1	Sheep head and pluck	Cysts
1	Sheep head and pluck	Distomatosis
1	Sheep head and pluck	Strongylosis
1	Sheep liver	Cirrhosis
4	Pig carcasses and all offals	Acute Swine Erysipelas
1	Pig carcase and all offals	Acute Fever
1	Pig carcase and all offals	Hydraemia
1	Pig carcase and all offals	Pyæmia

1 Pig hock	Bruising
5 Pig hocks	Abscesses
6 Pig hocks	Arthritis
2½ lbs. foreleg	Arthritis
17 lbs. pork	Abscesses
40 lbs. pork	Broken Shoulder
3 Pigs heads and tongues	Abscesses
147 Pigs heads and tongues	Tuberculosis
2 Pigs heads and tongues	Bruising
1 Pig pluck	Pleurisy
3 Pig plucks	Abscesses
65 Pig plucks	Cysts
2 Pig plucks	Fibroma
5 Pig plucks	Hepatitis
9 Pig plucks	Inflammation
8 Pig plucks	Pneumonia
23 Pig plucks	Tuberculosis
3 Pig plucks	Pericarditis
9 Pig plucks	Ascarides
2 Pig plucks	Cirrhosis
2 Pig plucks	Emphysema
2 sets pig intestines	Abscesses
1 set pig intestines	Ascaris Lumbricoides
40 sets pig intestines	Enteritis
2 sets pig intestines	Peritonitis
7 sets pig intestines	Tuberculosis
2 Pig kidneys	Cysts

FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME.

Both your Inspectors are appointed Certifying Officers by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the above scheme. During the year 28 pig carcasses were certified for guarantee payment.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 to 1954.

There are twenty-one slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the above Acts.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The number on the register is four and twenty visits were paid to these premises to ensure compliance with the Byelaws. Four contraventions were noted and dealt with during the year. Complaints of nuisance from the Hide and Skin Store again received attention but, until the County Development Plan for the town is implemented, no permanent solution can be achieved.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The town is divided into three districts, each served by one vehicle.

A fourth vehicle is employed to supplement this service when, for various reasons, delays are experienced.

This vehicle is also used for collections from business premises, hospitals, institutions, etc., and so concentrates the work of district vehicles on to house refuse.

130 dustbins were provided and 106 dustbins were renewed by the Council under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The amount of domestic refuse dealt with at the tip was estimated to be 8,306 tons for the year ending 31st March, 1956.

The method in use is that of controlled tipping. Soil is dug out by an M.R. Bristol angledozer, deposited on top of the refuse and finally levelled off.

During the year, tipping operations at Laughton were completed and work began in May on raising the level of field O.S. 464 in connection with the future development of the site as a sewage works.

SALVAGE

233 tons 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts. of waste paper were collected by the Department, which together with other items, realised a gross value of £2,452 7s. 11d.

During the year the pulp mills issued an appeal for greater quantities of waste paper, which, together with a higher guaranteed minimum price, was largely responsible for the increased revenue over the previous year. It was disappointing to note the high paper content of domestic refuse which not only causes complications at the tip but diminishes the Council's income from this source.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(Financial Year Ending:—31st March, 1956)

Total cost of Collection and Disposal of the Town's Refuse is as follows:—

Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	£	s	d
Revenue....	....	....	12,911	11	8
	....	....	2,452	7	11
Nett Cost			....	10,459	3 9

No. of Weekly Collections			Method of Collection	Method of Disposal	COLLECTION & DISPOSAL COSTS					
					Total Cost	Total Tons (Est.)	No. of Houses	Cost per House	Cost per 1000 Houses	Cost per Head of Population
Pop.	House Trade		2 Ten Cu. Yd. Side Loading and 1 Seven Cu. Yd. Rear Ldg. Motor Vehicles	Controlled Tip	£10,459	8,306	5,518	£1.9	£1,895	12/-
17,380	1	1								
										£602

Rate Represented for Collection and Disposal 25.6d.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Seventeen cases of infectious disease were referred to me by your Medical Officer of Health for disinfection.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Under Section 50 of the above Act, it is the duty of the Council to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the area where no suitable arrangements for disposal have been made. This function was delegated to your Public Health Inspector and three cases were dealt with during the year.

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION.

The Council provide and maintain a mortuary under Section 198 of the Public Health Act, 1936. A Council employee attends twice weekly and as occasion requires, to cleanse and service equipment after use.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one common lodging house registered by the Council under Section 237 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Visits were paid periodically to these premises with a view to securing compliance with the Council's byelaws.

No contraventions were noted and the premises were maintained in a clean condition.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are two moveable dwellings licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Three licences to keep a pet shop under the provisions of the above Act were issued by the Council during the year.

HOUSING.

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954, the Council were required to submit to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government their proposals for dealing with those houses within their area which were considered to be unfit for human habitation.

A survey of the whole town was undertaken and the result is given below in the form required by the Minister.

Total number of permanent dwellings in the area	5211
(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	534
(ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)	10
(iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority	Nil
(iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative	Nil
(v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years	Nil
(vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	521
(vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation	271
(viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years	250

(ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	13
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The Council in compiling the proposal set out in (ii), (vii) and (viii) assumed that the Minister will continue the present annual allocation of houses to the Council to meet the general housing needs of the district and also such allocations of houses as may be required for special classes of workers in the district in addition to the allocation of the houses required for the rehousing of the persons to be removed from the houses to be demolished.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Drains cleansed or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	27
Drains constructed	....	....	....	....	....	3
Drain Ventilators fixed or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	2
Inspection Chambers rebuilt	....	....	....	....	....	2
Water Closets cleansed or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	36
Water Closet structures repaired	....	....	....	....	....	9
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	18
New sinks provided	....	....	....	....	....	11
Portable Dustbins provided by Local Authority in default	....	....	....	....	....	130
Portable Dustbins provided by Owners	....	....	....	....	....	18
Yard Pavements etc., repaired	....	....	....	....	....	4
Roofs repaired	....	....	....	....	....	48
Floors repaired	....	....	....	....	....	7
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	....	....	....	....	....	51
Foodstores repaired or provided	....	....	....	....	....	8
Plaster of walls and ceilings repaired	....	....	....	....	....	43
Firegrates repaired, re-set or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	16
Windows, skylights repaired	....	....	....	....	....	22
Wash-house structures repaired	....	....	....	....	....	7
Coppers re-set, repaired or provided	....	....	....	....	....	9
Chimneys repaired or pointed	....	....	....	....	....	23
External walls pointed, repaired, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	27
Coal stores erected or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	6
Stairs repaired or renewed, Handrails fixed	....	....	....	....	....	8
Skirtings fixed	....	....	....	....	....	19
Doors repaired	....	....	....	....	....	13
W.C. pans replaced	....	....	....	....	....	15
W.C. Flushing cisterns repaired	....	....	....	....	....	28

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Owing to difficulties in staffing, the duties of dealing with grants for the improvement of housing accommodation were transferred to the Surveyor's Department.

By the end of the year, 12 applications received approval by the Council.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

The tenants of eight houses, having received from their landlords a notice of repairs increase, applied to the Council for Certificates of Disrepair under Section 26 of the above Act, all of which were granted after consideration of your Inspector's reports.

Three applications for revocation of Certificates of Disrepair were received from property owners, two of which were refused, as all the repairs specified in the Certificates had not been completed. On later re-application, both Certificates were revoked.

NEW BUILDINGS

During the year, 26 permanent houses were erected by the Council and 36 by other bodies or persons.

WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of four premises, all dwellings in the town are on the water carriage system.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following information extracted from the form prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is for the twelve month period ending 31st March, 1956.

	Type of Property.				Total
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agri-cultural.	All other (including business premises).	
Number of properties in Local Authority's district.	12	5318	12	987	6329
Number of properties inspected.	28	2051	44	228	2351
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats	Major 2	0	0	7	9
	Minor 8	383	0	0	391
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by mice.	Major 0	0	1	0	1
	Minor 0	34	0	6	40
Number of properties treated by the Local Authority.	7	408	1	8	424
Number of "block" control schemes carried out.	—	—	—	15	15

During the year, 123 premises were treated for minor insect infestations.

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Houses—Public Health Acts: Visits	....	....	....	....	307
Complaints investigated	....	....	....	....	115
Visits to Property under Notice	....	....	....	....	293
Common Lodging Houses	....	....	....	....	6
Factories—Mechanical Power	....	....	....	....	91
Factories—No Mechanical Power	....	....	....	....	11
Infectious Disease Cases	....	....	....	....	17
Drainage Work	....	....	....	....	23
Shops Act	....	....	....	....	112
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	19
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	7
Other Food Preparation	....	....	....	....	61
Wet Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	6
Butchers Shops	....	....	....	....	20
Markets	....	....	....	....	101
Meat Inspection	....	....	....	....	367
Offensive Trades	....	....	....	....	20
Ice Cream Shops	....	....	....	....	54
Dairies and Milk Shops	....	....	....	....	8
Vermin	....	....	....	....	33
Depot and Tip	....	....	....	....	68
Refuse Collection	....	....	....	....	47
Marine Stores	....	....	....	....	4
Interviews with owners	....	....	....	....	62
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	4
Water Samples	....	....	....	....	225
Unsound Food	....	....	....	....	108
Overcrowding	....	....	....	....	3
Total	....	....	....	....	2,192

WATER SUPPLY.

- (i) Water is obtained from three boreholes at the Council's Waterworks and is stored in two open reservoirs with an estimated total capacity of three days normal demand. Two water towers with a total capacity of 36,500 gallons are also provided for gravity feeding to the higher levels of the town.

(ii) **BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.**

During the year, 216 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination both before and after chlorination. Results are reported upon in accordance with the Ministry of Health's suggested classification.

RAW WATER.

Class 1 (Highly satisfactory)	54	98.2%
Class 2 (Satisfactory)	0	
Class 3 (Suspicious)	1	1.8%
Class 4 (Unsatisfactory)	0	
Total		55

WATER GOING INTO SUPPLY.

Class 1 (Highly satisfactory)	140	87%
Class 2 (Satisfactory)	6	4%
Class 3 (Suspicious)	3	2%
Class 4 (Unsatisfactory)	5	3%
Doubtful	7	4%
Total		161

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Three samples of water were taken during the year and were reported upon as "Satisfactory."

- (iii) As the water has an average total hardness of 358 parts per million and an average pH value of 7.5 the possibility of the water having a plumbo-solvent action is extremely remote.
- (iv) The water is chlorinated at the waterworks by means of an automatic chlorinating and recording apparatus.
- (v) Number of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct 5,167
- Number of dwellings supplied by means of stand-pipes 351
- The average Flourine content of the borehole water is 0.23 parts per million.

As there was no adequate standby for the No. 3 pump, a submersible pump was installed in the No. 1 disused borehole in September so that the town can be adequately supplied by Nos. 1 and 2 pumps running together, thus avoiding any disorganisation of supply which would have been occasioned by mechanical breakdown under former conditions.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

600 yards of sewers were laid on the Mayflower Close housing estate during the year.

In concluding my report, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their unstinted co-operation, to the Medical Officer of Health for his invaluable help at all times and to the Additional Public Health Inspector and Health Department Staff for their ready and willing assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN CARTER

Caldicotts, Printers, "News" Office, Gainsborough.
